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Eighteen Firms Respond to Request for Information on IDOT's Interstate 55 Managed Lane Project

Enthusiastic response to help agency pursue innovative financing solution

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) today announced that 18 firms have responded to the formal Request for Information (RFI) to assist in developing a plan to leverage private investment to build the Interstate 55 Managed Lane Project. The enthusiastic response further demonstrates the value in the project as well as a strong desire from project developers to have a hand in delivering the best possible outcome for the people of Illinois. By continuing to pursue the project as a public-private partnership (P3), IDOT is committed to exploring innovative financing solutions to invest in the state's infrastructure, create jobs and grow the economy.

"Through private investments and existing resources, this innovative project creates jobs for Illinoisans and improves the quality of life in the region," said Gov. Bruce Rauner. "It is a good deal for taxpayers and it shows that Illinois is open for business."

"This is an important step for a project that can serve as a model for how to rebuild our roads and bridges," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. "Working together with the private sector, we can learn about best practices for projects like this, potentially saving taxpayers time and money."

During the RFI process, private firms are encouraged to submit their ideas on how to best deliver the managed lanes under a P3 arrangement with the state. The following firms have responded and scheduled a one-on-one meeting: Acciona Concesiones S.L., AECOM Technical Services, Inc., ASC/Dragados/Pashen Team, Cintra & Ferrovial Agroman, Globalvia Inversiones S.A.U., Granite Construction Company & OHL USA, Inc., John Laing, K-Five Construction Corp., Macquarie Capital (USA), Inc., Meridiam, Plenary Group, ROADIS/InfraRed Capital Partners, Sacyr Infrastructure USA, LLC., Shikun & Binui, The Lane Construction Corporation, VINCI Concessions, Walsh Construction, Xerox State & Local Solutions, Inc.

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A forum will be held Tuesday, Sept. 20 at the Holiday Inn Chicago O'Hare Area Hotel, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., in Chicago, from 9 to 10 a.m. for the public to learn more about the project. IDOT representatives will hold one-on-one meetings with potential private partners on Sept. 20 and 21.

The feedback received from the RFI will help IDOT in creating criteria and an overall plan to design, build, operate and maintain the managed lanes on I-55 if the project is pursued as a P3.

The project would add a tolled express lane to the expressway's existing median between Interstate 355 and Interstate 90/94, reducing congestion and making travel throughout the region more efficient. The 25-mile stretch accommodates 170,000 vehicles a day, with about 15 percent trucks, making it one of the most important commuting and freight corridors in the state.

According to statute, IDOT must receive the approval from the General Assembly to see the project through to completion. The plans for the additional capacity received federal approval in July, paving the way for IDOT to begin seeking ways to deliver the project, estimated to cost \$425 million for construction.